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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

A LUNAR LANDSCAPE, PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE LICK
OBSERVATORY.

The original negative from which the Moon-plate (given in the present number of our *Publications*) was made, was taken on December 31, 1897, with an enlarging lens, (magnifying the principal focal image eight diameters), attached to the 36-inch refractor.

The exposure time was from 7^h 58^m 30^s to 7^h 58^m 50^s, P. S. T.

The error in the clock-rate and the motion in declination were counteracted by giving to the plate a single uniform motion by means of a screw turned by hand, the required velocity and direction of motion having first been determined by actual observation of the enlarged focal image.

The scale of the published plate (Moon's diameter = 40 inches) is the same as that of the original negative.

We have satisfactorily enlarged portions of some of our negatives to a scale of sixty feet to the Moon's diameter.

J. M. S. and C. D. P.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

[Extracts from a letter by Professor W. W. CAMPBELL.]

"The story of the eclipse is too long to tell in a letter. I had to locate in *level country*, in a *famine district*, *water scarce*, *dust plentiful*, the plague on both sides of us. There were no habitable buildings nearer than fifteen miles, so camping was a matter of necessity. The difficulties were great, but I kept my

* Lick Astronomical Department of the University of California.

courage up, and was all ready for the eclipse on January 16th. The assistants—fine ones—arrived from January 17th to 20th, and were drilled to the work. There had not been a cloud in the sky for six weeks, and eclipse day was simply beautiful. The ‘seeing’ was fair that day, though it had been poor—Sun boiling—on all previous days.

“The eclipse began within half a second of my predicted chronometer time, and closed in the same manner. No wind existed, though I was prepared for wind. The corona had great extent, but was faint as a whole. The prominences were numerous, but vastly smaller than in 1893. The sky was *very, very* bright. Animals paid very little attention to the eclipse. Three miles away, on the horizon formed by a low ridge, I saw the small trees with perfect distinctness during totality.

“The 40-foot telescope gave —

1 instantaneous Seed 27 plates.

2 one-second “ “ “

2 two-second “ “ “

2 four-second “ “ “

2 eight-second “ “ “

1 sixteen-second “ “ “ (defective plate).

1 instantaneous Carbutt B plate (very little on plate).

1 one-second “ “ “ (very little on plate, and was caught by the Sun).

“There were eight beautiful negatives with the Dallmeyer and with the Floyd. The spectrum of the Sun’s edge was fainter than I expected, but the plates are pretty successful and valuable.

“But I’ll save the rest of the story till I get home. I had a great struggle with the dust and the heat in developing the plates. I had to have the dark-room in a tent, temperature 94° Fahr. in the daytime. Had to wait till 1 A.M. to begin developing. And the dust was awful, too. The water was absolutely muddy—had to be boiled and filtered. I never saw such dry climate. Some days the dry bulb was +32° C., and the wet bulb +18° C., or even +17° C. My hands were cracked wide open, and I could scarcely finish the development of the original plates, to say nothing of making copies.”

These extracts from Professor CAMPBELL’s letter to Professor SCHAEFERLE are printed here, as they will be of general interest to the members of the Society. R. G. A.